

What is claimed is:

1. A trackball device comprising:
  - a sphere;
  - 5 a support for rotatably supporting the sphere;
  - a rotation detector for detecting rotation of the sphere;
  - a controller for generating a specific output signal responsive to a signal from the rotation detector; and
  - an informer for generating auxiliary information
  - 10 responsive to rotating of the sphere, the auxiliary information being based on the signal from the controller.
2. The trackball device of claim 1, wherein the sphere includes magnetic material, the informer includes an electromagnet, the sphere
- 15 is placed in a magnetic flux circuit generated by the electromagnet to be influenced by magnetic attractive force.
3. The trackball device of claim 2, wherein the electromagnet has a core, the support includes at least a first supporting member coupled
- 20 to a first end of the core, a second supporting member coupled to a second end of the core, and a third supporting member independent of the core.
4. The trackball device of claim 2, further comprising a
- 25 permanent magnet for influencing the sphere by magnetic field.
5. The trackball device of claim 3, wherein a surface material of the first supporting member, the second supporting member, and the

third supporting member is the same as a surface material of the sphere.

6. The trackball device of claim 3, further comprising a first  
5 switch operated by depression of the sphere in relation with the third supporting member, wherein the controller detects a state of the first switch.

7. The trackball device of claim 2, wherein a direction of the  
10 magnetic flux generated by the electromagnet is alternately switched.

8. The trackball device of claim 1, wherein the informer includes an actuator for causing interference of force with the sphere.

9. The trackball device of claim 1, wherein the informer includes  
15 a sound part for generating sound.

10. An input device comprising:

a trackball device including:

20 a sphere;

a support for rotatably supporting the sphere;

a rotation detector for detecting rotation of the sphere;

a controller for generating a specific output signal  
25 responsive to a signal from the rotation detector; and

an informer for generating auxiliary information responsive to rotating of the sphere, the auxiliary information being based on the signal from the

controller; and  
at least a second switch disposed around the trackball  
device.

5           11. A vehicle comprising:

a vehicle body having a vehicle cabin therein;  
a drive wheel supporting the vehicle body; and  
a trackball device provided in the vehicle cabin, including:

                  a sphere;  
10               a support for rotatably supporting the sphere;  
                  a rotation detector for detecting rotation of the  
sphere;

                  a first controller for generating a specific output  
signal responsive to a signal from the rotation detector;  
15               and

                  an informer for generating auxiliary information  
responsive to rotating of the sphere, the auxiliary  
information being based on the signal from the first  
controller.

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12. The vehicle of claim 11, further comprising:

a second controller for receiving the signal from the first  
controller; and

electronic equipment controlled by the second controller.

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13. The vehicle of claim 11, wherein the electronic equipment  
includes a display for displaying at least one of a pointer and a cursor,  
and rotation of the sphere causes movement of at least one of the

pointer and the cursor on the display.

14. The vehicle of claim 11, wherein the trackball device is disposed in a central position of a full width of the vehicle cabin.

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15. The vehicle of claim 11, further comprising two seats in a front portion of the vehicle cabin, wherein the trackball device is disposed between the two seats.